

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SSO-00 NSCE-00 DPW-01 IO-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /096 W
----- 053529

R 140930 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1643

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8467

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: SENATOR DANG VAN SUNG COMMENTS ON THE UPPER HOUSE
ELECTION B

ILL

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. IN A CONVERSATION MAY 14 WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER, GENERALLY
PRO- ADMINISTRATION SENATOR DANGHRAN SUGN EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS
ABOUT THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION LAW THAT HE FORSAW EMERGING
FROM THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. ALTHOUGH HE HAD VOTED FOR THE
CURRENT VERSION OF THE BILL IN THE UPPER HOUSE, HE DID NOT
FAVOR IT COMPLETELY, BECAUSE HE DID NOT THINK IT SUFFICIENTLY
ADVANCED SOUTH VIETNAM TOWARD A TWO- PARTY OR THREE- PARTY
SYSTEM. HOWEVER, HE WAS ALSO AGAINST PRESIDENT THIEU' S
ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE BILL, SINCE HE FEARED THAT HTE
REQUIREMENT FOR ENDORSEMENT BY POLITICAL PARTIES THAT ARE
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FULLY QUALIFIED UNDER DECREE LAW 060 WOULD LEAD TO A ONE- PARTY ELECTION. HE SAW NO WAY THAT THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (SDA) COULD QUALIFY IN TIME FOR THE UH ELECTION. IN FACT, HE CHARACTERIZED THE FREEDOM PARTY AS BEING IN DANGER OF " COLLAPSE". THE SDA WAS DOING SOMEWHAT BETTER, BUT WAS MOVING VERY SLOWLY IN GETTING ORGANIZED. HOWEVER, SUNG THOUGHT THAT THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT SLATES IN THE UH ELECTION WOULD BE A " SHOT IN THE ARM" FOR BOTH PARTIES.

2. THE ELECTION LAW THAT SUNG PREFERRED TO SEE WOULD REQUIRE ENDORSEMENT BY POLITICAL PARTIES, BUT IT WOULD ALLOW ALL PARTIES HAVING EITHER PERMANENT OF PROVISIONAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REGISTRATION TO MAKE SUCH ENDORSEMENTS. THIS WOULD EMBRACE THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SDA AS WELL AS THE DEMOCRACY PARTY AT THE PRESENT TIME. SUNG NOTED THAT PRESIDENT THIEU COULD AMEND THE BILL TO REFLECT SUCH A SYSTEM IF HE WANTED TO, SINCE THE PRESIDENT IS NOT RESTRICTED TO HIS ORIGINAL VERSION IF HE CHOOSES THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURE. SUNG HOPED TO SEE PRESIDENT THIEU ON THIS MATTER AND TO PERSUADE HIM ALONG THESE LINES.

3. SUNG WAS NOT PARTICULARLY HOPEFUL THAT HE COULD PERSUADE THIEU TO DEPART FROM THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE BILL. HE THOUGHT THIEU WOULD PROBABLY SEEK AN AMENDMENT RESTORING THAT VERSION, AND OF COURSE THIEU WOULD GET HIS WAY. RECALLING THAT THIEU HAD ONCE TOLD HIM THAT A ONE- PARTY STATE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IF THAT IS WHAT EMERGED FROM DL 060, SUNG WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE AUTHORITARIAN TENDENCY HE SAW IN THIEU. HE FEARED THAT THIEU SAW AN " ILLUSION" OF STRENGTH IN THAT KIND OF RULE.

4. CONCERNING SUNG' S OWN PLANS FOR REELECTION, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY RUN IF A GENUINE TWO- PARTY OR THREE- PARTY ELECTION EMERGED. HE IMPLIED THAT HE COULD SEE HIMSELF ON EITHER A DEMOCRACY OR AN SDA SLATE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT IF A ONE- PARTY ELECTION RESULTED, AS HE FEARED, HE WOULD STAY OUT OF THE RACE AND " GO BACK TO MY NEWSPAPER".

WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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